

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated June 28, 2010. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 21-31 are pending in the Application. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 and 21-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Regarding claim 1, the response to the previous Office Action references the present application, page 1, lines 7-13, and page 4, line 20 to page 5, line 4 as showing that making textile connections is well known. Other examples of textile connections are described in the prior art references U.S. Patent No. 6,360,615 to Smela ("Smela") and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0075232 to Daum ("Daum"), used by the Examiner to reject the claims of the present application. It is only for the fear of being prolix that the Applicants omitted the discussion of that which is well known. Because textile connections are well known, it is respectfully submitted that the textile construction of claim 1 will be easily reproduced, made, or used by those skilled in the art. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 21-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, claim 1 is amended to remove the term "in proximity" and claims 6 and 29-31 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, it is respectfully

submitted that the rejected claims are definite and, thus, overcome this rejection. An indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,360,615 to Smela ("Smela"). Claims 1-9 and 21-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0075232 to Daum ("Daum"). Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Smela in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,102,878 to Nguyen ("Nguyen"). Claims 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Smela in view of Daum. Claims 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Smela in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,346,649 to Karna ("Karna"). These rejections are respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9 and 20-31 are allowable over Smela, Daum, Nguyen, and Karna for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is amended in response to an indication that the "interface" limitation was being viewed by the Examiner as a recitation of an intended use (see, Office Action, page 8). Accordingly, claim 1 is amended herein to recite "a user interface having predefined markings describing functions of an electronic device". It is respectfully submitted that support for the claims recitations is found at least in each of the figures of the present application. This recitation is not taught, disclosed, or suggested within the four corners of Smela and Daum. No discussion of an interface having predefined markings is disclosed in the provided prior art references.

Nguyen and Karna are cited to reject dependent claims and do not remedy the deficiencies of Smela and Daum.

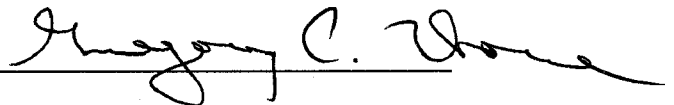
It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Smela and Daum. For example, the combination of Smela and Daum do not disclose or suggest, amongst other patentable elements, a textile construction comprising (illustrative emphasis added) "a conductive elastomeric material including at least one area for converting a mechanical interaction therewith into at least one electronic signal related to the at least one area of the conductive elastomeric material; and an actuator for mechanically interacting with the at least one area of the conductive elastomeric material, the actuator including a user interface having predefined markings describing functions of an electronic device that are initiated by the at least one electronic signal, the actuator is formed from one or more of a plastic and rubber", as recited in claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Smela and Daum and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-9 and 21-31 respectively depend from claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position, or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in
condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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